

- Convene symposium on population health. Plan and put in place an annual symposium or conference on population health. The event, to be co-sponsored with other organizations throughout the County, would have the mission to elevate and enhance both the community's knowledge of the population health and positively impact the ways and means by which the County can improve the health of the community.

(c) **Mental Health Authority.** The Howard County Mental Health Authority (MHA) is responsible for planning, developing, managing, and monitoring the publicly funded mental health system in Howard County. The most used services funded by the public mental health system include outpatient treatment, residential services, case management, day programs, mobile treatment teams and vocational supported employment. Following are the recommendations of the Transition Team:

- Assign the MHA the lead leadership role on implementing Behavioral Health Task Force Recommendations. The Behavioral Health Task Force is expected to present a comprehensive set of recommendations to the County Executive in March of this year. The report will present strategies that address needs covering prevention, early and on-going intervention. MHA should be named as the County organization that will take the leadership role in carrying out report's recommendations.
- Integrate available mental health services. Explore viable ways and means by which the MHA can better connect and/or integrate its roles and responsibilities with other available county support services. This enhancement would initially involve both the Office of Children's Services and the Substance Abuse Program administered by the County Health Department.
- Create a blueprint for children's mental health. Review current programs, resources and partnerships that support families who care for children/adolescents with mental health needs. Develop a blueprint and action plan that is family-driven and comprehensive. The plan should include attention to early identification, access to treatment, family support and education in addition to crisis support and crisis beds. This initiative's success rests on both creating and sustaining partnerships with all child serving agencies including Juvenile Services, Department of Social Services, Disability Services and the Howard County Public School System.

(d) **Department of Recreation and Parks.** As one of Howard County's most diverse – and perhaps most familiar – departments, R&P fulfills its mission effectively, responsibly, efficiently, and innovatively. Enlisting its Board of Directors, 210 full-time employees, and a valuable pool of devoted volunteers, the department completes its responsibilities well while taking appropriate and often trend-setting actions to analyze and plan future paths. The committee was impressed with R&P's leadership and creativity in juggling so many diverse areas. Following are the recommendations of the Transition Team: